BURIAL DRAWER 2 LINCOLN CHILDREN - ROBERT

71.3004 DIS 04392

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

http://archive.org/details/lincolnchildrenrlinc_0

The Lincoln Children

Robert Todd Lincoln

Burial

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Gerald Prokopowicz, Ph. D.
Lincoln Museum
200 East Berry
Fort Wayne, IN 46802-7838

August 14, 1998

Dear Jerry,

Enclosed you will find copies of letters which Gerald Swick and I used to write our article about Robert Todd Lincoln's burial in Arlington National Cemetery. Also enclosed are copies of the two telegrams which were sent to the Helm family concerning Mr. Lincoln's death. I find the telegrams interesting because they say that Mr. Lincoln will be buried in Springfield.

For your museum records, you should know that the originals of these documents are part of the Helm Collection which was purchased by Mr. William Townsend. They then became part of the Townsend Collection, most of which is currently at King's Library in Lexington, Kentucky. They currently belong to his daughter, Mrs. Mary G. Townsend Murphy. She has granted me permission to send copies to Lincoln Museum of any document which I use as reference for articles published in *Lincoln Lore*.

If there is any other information that you need for the article, or for your records, please let me know. I look forward to hearing from you again, until then, I remain,

Most Respectfully,

Donna D. McCreary

Donna D. McCreary (Bowen)

Dearest Lois

You will, I know, be surprised at what I am going to tell you — a thought came to me, by inspiration, on the night of the 11th of Aug., and it was this: That the beloved one should be interred in the Arlington

WRitten by Mary Harlan Lincoln
TO: Katherine Helm

No date

national Cemetery, at Wash-
ing, instead of writing
a crypt at Springfield -
After prayerful thought over
this, for many weeks
I knew I was right so
I began to set the wheels
in motion - When we
leave Manchester we
will go directly to Wash-
ington, where he will

have a temporary resting place, until I have had ~~the~~ a suitable tomb built for him, final interment to take place next Spring, probably—

We are keeping our plans from the public as much as possible, until our arrival at Washington — Tell the

dear family, of course,
but let it go as latter-
You know our darling
was a personage, made
his own history, inde-
pendently of his great
father, and should
have his own place
in "The Sun"! So let
me have a line from

your dear self before
our leave here — I shall
probably be at an hotel
for several weeks before
going to 3014 V — but
for any sentimental reason
however, for I am not
at all morbid — God has
sustained me wonderfully!

Your loving Mrs

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

What a blessing to have you for a twin!
Perhaps it would not be best to tell dear Aunt Emily about Lessie — it might pain her — By the way, your dear Mother is the only one left that I may call "Aunt" — My dear "Aunts" have all passed

Written by Mary Harlan Lincoln
To Katherine Helm
No date

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

on — Nine in all —
My mothers five sisters,
and my fathers four
sisters, have all crossed
the river, long, long ago —
my plans for the building
of the tomb at Arlington
are progressing slowly,
but satisfactorily — after
I had selected the site,

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(a beautiful wooded knoll)
I had to go to the War
Department in person
to ask the Secretary's
approval of my choice
and to grant the allot-
ment — The Secretary was
very gracious to me,
but you know it takes
time to settle matters

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

of this nature, as they have to go through the hands of so many officials, assistant Secretary, Quarter Master General &c. &c, and only last week I had word from the Department that my choice had been granted — and from now on the real

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

thought, and work, will begin — I have had several conferences, with Mr Henry White, and Mr Charles Moore, Chairman of the Fine Arts Committee, who are much interested in this labor of love, and will give me all the help they can — I am glad this careful

3014 N STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

paper!) that you may possibly be with me, before anything is finely decided upon — with heaps, and heaps of love

Always your devoted
Twin

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

205VE K 45 BLUE

MANCHESTER VT 405P JUL 26 1926

MISS KATHARINE HELM

BOWMANS MILL PIKE LEXINGTON KY

MR ROBERT LINCOLN PASSED AWAY ABOUT TEN THIS MORNING A GREAT LOSS TO HIS FRIENDS WHO LOVED HIM THIS COUNTRY WHICH TREASURED HIM AS A FINE MAN AND SPLENDID CITIZEN MY DEAREST LOVE TO YOUR MOTHER IN THE LOSS OF A BELOVED NEPHEW AND FRIEND

LOUISIANA ARKELL

Telephone No. 8303R
Sely
405P 4 38 p
B file

Form 1204

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
TELEGRAM	
DAY LETTER	BLUE
NIGHT MESSAGE	NITE
NIGHT LETTER	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

189VE 10

MANCHESTER VT 405P JUL 26 1926

B H HELM

HELM PLACE LEXINGTON KY

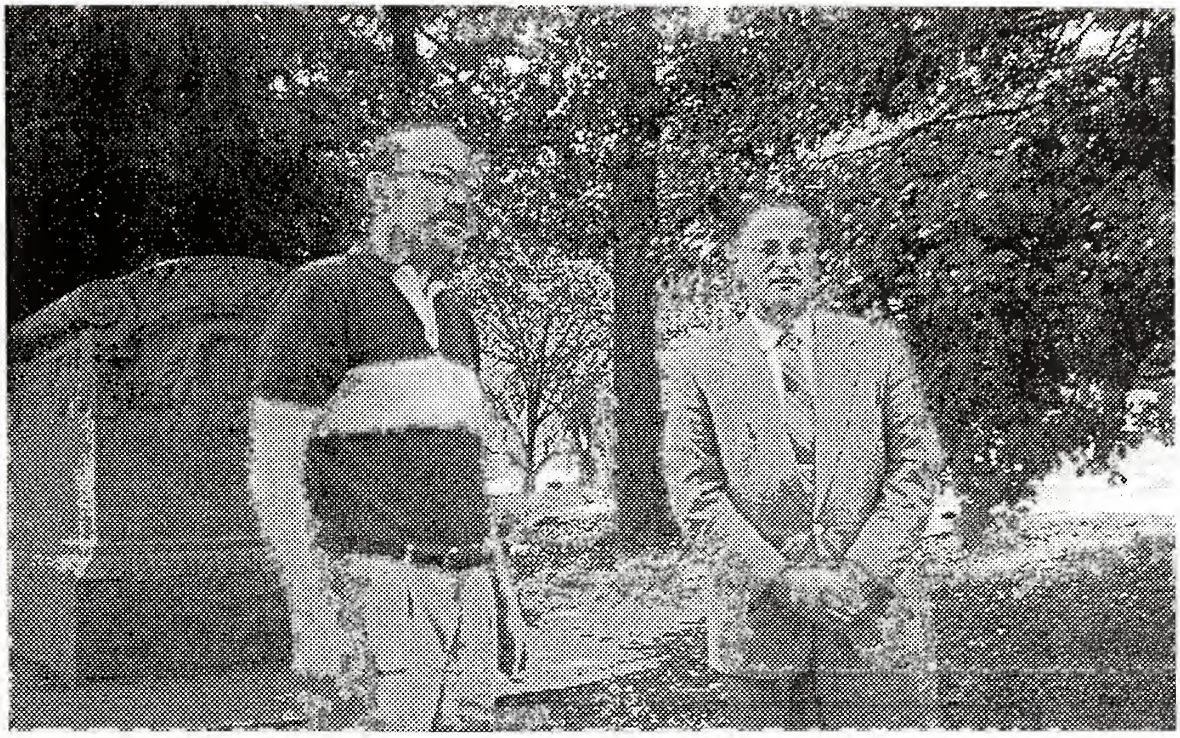
SERVICES HERE ON WEDNESDAY DEFERRING INTERREMENT AT SPRINGFIELD UNTIL AUTUMN

F N TOWERS

333R

Telephone No. 8303R
Telephoned To Miss Helm
Delivered 3 37 p
Filed

Carson on Robert Todd Lincoln



LGDC Members Rod Ross and Steve Carson at the grave Of Robert Todd Lincoln in Arlington National Cemetery.

This past July, Steve Carson, a past president of the Lincoln Group, spoke to members of the Illinois State about Robert Todd Lincoln. He described Lincoln's son, "a man who died a week before his 83rd birthday," as an immensely successful but tragic figure."

When Robert Todd Lincoln died, flags flew at half-staff to honor his service to the country as Secretary of War and envoy to Great Britain. Steve remarked that "what Robert did is in your pocket." He chose the portrait to be used on the $5 bill. He also chose the version of the Gettysburg Address used on the Lincoln Memorial. In addition to his public service, he was also "a corporate giant," a founder of AT&T and Chairman of the Board for Pullman during its greatest period of growth.

Yet, his life was also filled with tragedy. He buried his brothers, lost a father to an assassin and became estranged from his mother. He was also on the scene for two other presidential assassinations, those of Garfield and McKinley. He eventually declined invitations to presidential functions "because of the high mortality rate." His own name was mentioned as a presidential possibility. "However, he was not interested stating 'who knows better than I what a killer job it is."

His own burial was done in secrecy. His widow summoned a minister to her home "to bury Robert that day." He rests in Arlington National Cemetery rather than in Springfield because his widow "could not stand the thought of eternity next to that woman, Mary Todd Lincoln."

over for source

THE LINCOLNIAN

VOLUME XIX NUMBER 1 September - October 1999

A bimonthly publication of the LINCOLN GROUP OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, INC., a non-profit, tax-exempt historical society with a nationwide membership, devoted to the study of Abraham Lincoln since 1935. Programs held monthly in Washington D.C., featuring nationally and locally recognized Lincoln scholars and specialists.